GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:346
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2006
WILDLIFE CRIME
Barman Shri Hiten;Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wild animal body parts seized during the current year till-date, State-wise;

(b) the number of deaths of wild animals reported during the said period alongwith the reasons attributed thereto;

(c) the approximate cost of illegal trade in wildlife body parts recorded during the last three years and the current year;

(d) the steps proposed/taken to contain the situation;

(e) whether the Government proposes to check increasing wildlife crimes with the help of DNA tests; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (Shri A.RAJA)

(a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFFERED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO 346 FOR REPLY ON 21.8.2006 REGARDING WILDLIFE CRIME BY SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE & SHRI HITEN BARMAN

(a) & (b) Protection and management of wildlife is the responsibility of the State Governments. Central Government is implementing scheme for two major species namely - Tiger and Elephant. In case of tiger and elephant State wise deaths reported in the year 2006 are as follows:

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State   Number of reported deaths
   Tiger   Elephant
Uttranchal  3 ( ( Natural )  2 ( Natural )
Madhya Pradesh  4 ( 2 natural ,  -
       1 poaching
       1 unknown )

Maharashtra  2 ( 1 poaching , 4 ( Electrocution )
        1 natural
Uttar Pradesh  1 ( train accident ) -
Karnataka  1 ( Unknown )  2 (1 Accidental , 1 Unknown)
Arunachal Pradesh -   2 (1 Natural ,1Electrocution )



Assam   -   4 ( 3 natural , 1 unknown )
West Bengal  -   3 ( Train accident )
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Information available with the Ministry for other major species including tiger and elephant for the year 2005 is at Annexure - I.

(c) Since most of the trade in wildlife body part are illegal and clandestine , it is not possible to ascertain the approximate value of the trade.

(d) The following measures have been taken to control poaching and illegal trade of wildlife:

(i) The Wildlife (Protection) Act , 1972 has been amended and made more stringent . The punishment in cases of offences have been enhanced.

(ii) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act , 1972 .

(iii) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act , 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(iv) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.

(v) Financial assitance is povided to the State Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of `Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries`, `Project Tiger` and `Project Elephant` for infrastructure development, setting up of anti-poachng camps, purchase of wireless sets, vehicles, fire arms etc.

(vi) India has bilateral agreements with Nepal and China for controlling transboundary illegal trade in wildlife.

(e) & (f) DNA testing facility already exists in Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun and is being used for detecting wildlife offences whenever required.